

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTIA 03287 032057Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 TRSE-00 MCT-01 /058 W
-----011131 032109Z /65

O R 032034Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9087
INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

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E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, SHUM, CI
SUBJECT: LETELIER/MOFFITT ASSASSINATION

REF: SANTIAGO 3166

1. "HOY" AND "ERCILLA" NEWSMAGAZINES OUT MAY 3 CARRY STORIES ON INTERVIEW WITH MARIANA CALLEJAS (MICHAEL TOWNLEY'S WIFE) IN WHICH SHE COMES VERY CLOSE TO ACKNOWLEDGING TOWNLEY'S PARTICIPATION IN LETELIER/MOFFITT ASSASSINATION. SAME INTERVIEW APPARENTLY ALSO PROVIDED BASIS FOR WASHINGTON POST STORY OF MAY 3. "ERCILLA" HAS PICTURE OF DINGES AND KRAUSE OF WASHINGTON POST INTERVIEWING CALLEJAS.

2. ACCORDING TO CALLEJAS IN "HOY": "IT'S OBVIOUS THAT THE CHARGE OF CONSPIRACY INVOLVES OTHER PERSONS. HE (TOWNLEY) WAS NOT GOING TO ACT ALONE. IT WOULD NOT HAVE OCCURRED TO HIM TO GET INVOLVED IN KILLING A MR. LETELIER WHOM HE DID NOT EVEN KNOW. I THINK THAT THE CHARGES AGAINST HIM MUST BE WELL-FOUNDED SINCE THERE EXISTS A FORMAL ACCUSATION. AND IN THE UNITED STATES IT IS DANGEROUS TO ACCUSE WITHOUT GOOD EVIDENCE. I CANNOT BE SURE BUT I SUSPECT THEY KNOW HIS CONNECTION. IN 1976 HE WENT TWICE TO THE US AND ONCE TO PARAGUAY". ELSEWHERE CALLEJAS SAYS THAT "IF MICHAEL DID

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SOMETHING, HE WAS ONLY FOLLOWING ORDERS". SHE ADDS THAT HE WORKED TIREDLESSLY FOR DINA FROM 1974 AND WAS AWARE OF THE RISKS INVOLVED. "ERCILLA" QUOTES CALLEJAS AS HAVING "NO DOUBT" THAT HER HUSBAND WILL BE CONVICTED: "IN THE UNITED STATES THEY HAVE SOLID EVIDENCE".

3. CALLEJAS ALSO COMMENTS ON DINA AND ITS FORMER HEAD, MANUEL CONTRERAS: "IT (DINA) WAS A SERVICE LOYAL TO THE GOVERNMENT OF

PINOCHET AND IT MAINTAINED PEACE IN THE COUNTRY... IT OPERATED
EFFECTIVELY... I NEVER KNEW GENERAL CONTRERAS. MANY THINGS ARE
SAID OF HIM, BUT HE PUT AN END TO THE MIR AND PROTECTED THE SECURITY
OF THE GOVERNMENT. I HAVE RESPECT FOR HIM. TO MAKE A MISTAKE
IS HUMAN AND (BUT?) IN A SECURITY SERVICE MISTAKES ARE FATAL...".
LANDAU

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Message Attributes

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